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CAPITAL CHATTER

NSA Sought Safe Place For Records

By Our Washington Bureau Staff

WASHINGTON — The National Student Association anxiously turned to Sen. Eugene McCarthy, D-Minn., last weekend in search of a haven from the storm generated over disclosure of its ties with the CIA.

A top NSA officer, fearful that the organization records might be removed from its Washington headquarters, phoned McCarthy's office with a plea that he provide a safe place for the records.

The NSA officer explained that he feared for the "integrity" of the files, which reportedly can document charges that the CIA subordinated the student organization for its own purposes by the use of clandestine funds.

Opinion

The student leader suggested that McCarthy, a leading advocate of closer Congressional supervision of the CIA's worldwide super-secret undercover operations, might store the records at his suburban Bethesda home. But a McCarthy aide discouraged it, particularly after he learned the files were so voluminous it would cost \$400 just to move them.

The aide suggested that the student group ask Sen. William Fulbright's foreign relations committee office to take custody of the papers, and after a hasty consultation with that office, a compromise plan was settled on.

The NSA officer was advised to issue a statement offering the records to the Fulbright committee, which was done within minutes, thereby drawing public attention to the files and hopefully establishing Fulbright's claim to them.

Last report, the integrity of the files was still intact, although they still remained in NSA headquarters.